



2019 -Entering 7th Grade  
Summer Reading Annotations

***Chasing Lincoln's Killer*** by James L. Swanson (non-fiction)

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, & interviews with relatives of the conspirators & the manhunters, this is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit & capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, & into the forests of Virginia. This is a tale of intrigue & an engrossing mystery.

***Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus***\*\* by Dusti Bowling (realistic)

Aven Green didn't lose her arms in an alligator wrestling match or wildfire in Tanzania. That's just what she tells people when she gets the "looks." Truth is Aven was born without arms. When her family moves to Arizona Aven has to start all over again. She meets Connor a boy with tourettes, together they navigate the challenges of middle school, disability, & friendship--all while solving a mystery in a western theme park

***In the Shadow of the Sun*** by Anne O'Brien (realistic, adventure)

Mia Andrews & her brother Simon are on a guided tour in North Korea with their father who is on a food-aid mission. During their visit, someone slips a camera containing horrific photos of life in North Korea into Mia's belongings. She feels a responsibility to get these forbidden photographs out to the free world. When their father is arrested for spying, Mia & Simon decide to make a run for it. This is an exciting adventure that offers a rare glimpse into the compelling & complicated nation of North Korea.

***Lone Stars*** by Mike Lupica (sports)

Like most Texans, Clay is never more at home than when playing football. & his coach is just like a second father. But as the football season kicks off, Clay begins to notice some odd behavior from his coach - lapses in his memory & strange mood swings. The conclusion is painful, but obvious: Coach Cooper is showing side effects of the many concussions he sustained during his playing days. Full of great football action & heartfelt emotion, this is a touching story that proves life is bigger than a game.

***Resistance*** by Jenifer A. Nielson (historical)

Chaya Lindner is a Jewish teenager living in Nazi-occupied Poland. Using forged papers & her fair features, Chaya becomes a courier & travels between the Jewish ghettos of Poland, smuggling food, papers, & even people. Soon Chaya joins a resistance cell that runs raids on the Nazis' supplies. But after a mission goes terribly wrong, Chaya's alone & unsure of where to go, until Esther, a member of her cell, finds her & delivers a message that sends her on a journey toward an even larger uprising in the works.

***Restart***\*\* by Gordon Korman (realistic)

Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember *anything*. He wakes up in a hospital room & suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again. He knows he's Chase. But who *is* Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is - it's a question of who he *was* . . . & who he's going to be.

***The Selection*** by Kiera Cass (dystopian)

For thirty-five girls, the Selection is the chance of a lifetime. The opportunity to escape the life laid out for them since birth, to be swept up in a world of glittering gowns & priceless jewels, to live in a palace & compete for the heart of gorgeous Prince Maxon. But for America Singer, being Selected is a nightmare. It means turning her back on her secret love with Aspen, who is a caste below her. Then America meets Prince Maxon. Gradually, she starts to question all the plans she's made for herself & realizes that the life she's always dreamed of may not compare to a future she never imagined. This is the first book in a series.

***Slider***\*\* by Peat Hautman (realistic, humor)

David can eat an entire sixteen-inch pepperoni pizza in four minutes and thirty-six seconds. Not bad. But he knows he can do better. In fact, he'll have to do better: he's going to compete in the Super Pignorino Bowl, the world's greatest pizza-eating contest, and he has to win it, because he borrowed his mom's credit card and accidentally spent \$2,000 on it. So he really needs that prize money. Like, yesterday.